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NEWS RELEASE

YORK MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Thomas A. Marino, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, announced today that Walter Himmelreich, age 48, of York, Pennsylvania, was sentenced by Chief United States District Judge Yvette Kane to a 20-year term of imprisonment for producing child pornography. Chief Judge Kane further ordered that Himmelreich pay a \$1,000 fine and, upon release from prison, serve a life term of supervised release.

According to U.S. Attorney Marino, during January through November 2004, Himmelreich engaged in extensive internet chats with a person he believed was a mother willing to make her two minor daughters available for sex acts. Himmelreich was actually chatting with an undercover law enforcement officer from the Delaware County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. After several months of explicit discussions, Himmelreich planned to meet the woman and her daughters in November 2004. When Himmelreich arrived at the planned location, he was arrested.

Based on the internet chats, the telephone conversations, and the evidence found in plain view in Himmelreich's vehicle, agents obtained a search warrant for his residence. A review of Himmelreich's computer revealed at least 20 still pictures of child pornography, and in excess of 25 digitized pornographic video clips. Marino said the case was particularly egregious because Himmelreich had taken pornographic pictures of his own daughter who, at the time, was only six-years-old.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Delaware County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) and prosecuted by Assistant United

States Attorney James T. Clancy as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/."

U.S. Attorney Marino thanked the individuals and agencies involved in the careful investigation and prosecution of Himmelreich. He went on to note that the sentencing of Himmelreich symbolizes the responsibility each of us have in protecting the most innocent and fragile members of our community, our children.
